

Conservation Security Program

Preliminary Producer Checklist

Minnesota, 2005

If you currently own/operate land in the Blue Earth, Red Lake, Redwood, Redeye, Sauk or Root Watersheds, you may be eligible for the 2005 CSP. Eligibility for CSP is tied directly to treating soil and water quality at specific levels. It is likely that you are eligible to participate in CSP if you can answer yes to all of the following questions concerning your farming operation.

Yes	No	1	Do you share in the risk of producing crops or livestock on this farming operation? PLEASE NOTE: Landlords that cash rent are NOT eligible to apply for CSP but can participate if the renter is eligible.
Yes	No	2	Is your farming operation in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill?
Yes	No	3	Is the majority of your farming operation in one of the five watersheds listed above?
Yes	No	4	On at least a portion of your farming operation, have you used some type of reduced conservation tillage in the past two years?
Yes	No	5	Do you have current soil tests (no older than 8 years) on your farming operation and apply fertilizer/lime according to University of Minnesota Recommendations?.
Yes	No	6	Do you take fertilizer credit for all manure applied?
Yes	No	7	Are your nitrogen application rates within 20 lbs/ac of UMN Extension Fertilizer Recommendations?
Yes	No	8	Do you apply all pesticides at or below label rate?
Yes	No	9	Are all areas of concentrated water flow stabilized with grass waterways, sediment basins or terraces?

Questions 10 – 13 ONLY apply to grazing land. Do NOT answer if you only have cropland.

Yes	No	10	Are you following a rotational grazing system where you “rest” your pasture paddocks during the growing season?
Yes	No	11	Are your stocking rates in balance with the amount of pasture you have available (generally 1.5 acres for every beef cow/calf pair, or 1 acre for each dairy cow in the herd)?
Yes	No	12	Are all gullies (small and large) stabilized?
Yes	No	13	If the water source for your livestock is a stream, river or pond, is the access to the water controlled?

Question 14 applies to ALL land in your farming operation

Yes	No	14	Are you able to provide records from 2003 and 2004 for each field supporting the answers above?
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If you think you are eligible on all or a portion of your operation and are interested in applying for CSP, please complete the CSP self assessment online at www.nrcs.usda.gov or visit your local NRCS office to request a copy of the self assessment. The self assessment will provide information about programs that can help you achieve a higher level of conservation so that you may apply for CSP in the future.